New Air Services in Madhya Pradesh

†1730. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of flights of Indian Airlines are being increased in Madhya Pradesh with a view to promote tourism;

(b) by when the flights of Bhopal-Raipur-Calcutta would be started as per the demand of the people; and

(c) whether similarly flights from Bhopal to Hyderabad and Bangalore are being started to connect Bhopal with South India?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines has no plans presently to start Bhopal-Raipur-Calcutta service.

(c) Alliance Air has linked Bhopal to South India by introduction of a twice weekly B-737 service on Chennai-Nagpur-Bhopal and *vice-versa* route effective 26th March, 2000. Indian Airlines has, however, no plans at present to operate services from Bhopal to Hyderabad and Bangalore.

Air Bus Service from Bhopal Airport

†1731. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhopal Airport has been extended by Airports Authority of India and its runway has been made suitable for Airbus service by extending it; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not operating airbus service from there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. State Government have been requested for the acquisition of land for extension of runway to 7500 feet.

(b) Does not arise.

Cancellation of Credit Facility to Sahara India

†1732. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CIVIL

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.